

the pointed tip end [is apart several tens of nanometers from the second] metallic film and the arbitrarily contoured metallic film is equal to or less than 50 nm.

7. (amended) A near-field optical probe, comprising[:]
a substrate[; a first] on which two metallic [film] films each
having a pointed tip end[; and a second metallic film having a
pointed tip end, wherein the] are formed for generating a
plasmon resonance, in which an interval between the pointed
tip ends [are apart several tens of nanometers from each
other] is equal to or less than 50 nm.

REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 6 and 7 have been amended to more clearly describe the features of the present invention.

Also submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Examination of the application and favorable action thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account